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Title: NAVIGATION SYSTEM

[0011] When the retrieval key 72 is operated, the CPU 8 displays a message asking an input of a destination point, for example, "please set a departure point" on the liquid crystal display 5. At this time, a map around an actual location (a cursor display) is also displayed on the liquid crystal display 5. After that, when the scroll key 71 is operated, map data depending on a direction of scrolling is read out from the CD-ROM 4, so that the map displayed on the liquid crystal display 5 is scrolled centering around the cursor. When a user-desired departure point (the actual location is normally set as the departure point) is displayed on the center of the liquid crystal display 5 (at the cursor position) by performance of such an operation, if the setting key 73 is operated, the departure point is set, and a message asking a passing point is displayed next. The passing point can be set in the same manner as the departure point. After setting the passing point, the CPU 8 again asks to set a passing point. This is because a plurality of passing points may be required. In this case, after the passing point is set by operation of the setting key 73, if the setting key 73 is again operated without scrolling the cursor, it is determined that the setting of the passing point is ended, and a message asking a destination point is displayed last. The destination point can be also set in the same manner as the departure point

and the passing point. When the departure point, the passing point, and the destination point are input, the CPU determines a departure point node, a passing point node, and a destination point node corresponding to the departure point, the passing point, and the destination point, respectively, and computes a search route connecting from the departure point node to the destination point node via the passing point node in accordance with a predetermined parameter (indicating, for example, that an expressway is to be prioritized), and writes data on the search route on the RAM 10. The search route is computed based on data on a plurality of nodes dotted along a route from the departure point node to the destination point node via the passing point node. Each of the nodes is connected to one another by a plurality of links, and thereby obtaining a polygonal-line shaped simulated route on the road.